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Check Our Website:  
[nchistoricsites.org](http://nchistoricsites.org)

## Tryon Palace Wins More Support for History Education Center

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens recently has won several grants which will be used for the complex's future North Carolina History Education Center. The 48,000-square-foot center (see [www.tryonpalace.org/nched.html](http://www.tryonpalace.org/nched.html)) will be built on the waterfront, six-acre tract of the former Barbour Boat Works adjacent to the palace lawn. The overall project is estimated to cost \$40 million, and is scheduled to open in 2009. It is part of a \$50 million capital campaign, of which \$11 million has already been committed.

The History Education Center will employ the latest technology and include an interactive facility for families to explore history, programming and classroom space, as well as other service and support areas. An orientation area will prepare visitors for the historic tour, including equipping them with hand-held computers. The palm-sized computers will serve as personal tour guides for visitors. Technology promises to make visitors virtual time travelers. Part of the land along the river is being managed as a wetlands restoration project.

The overall venture recently has received more than \$1 million, including \$700,000 in state Repair and Renovation funds. In December the Cannon Foundation awarded \$250,000 to the project to begin site preparation for the future center. Felix Harvey of Kinston, a leader in the Global Transpark, has provided \$100,000.

Finally, the Save America's Treasures program has announced through Sen. Elizabeth Dole's office a matching gift of \$150,000, which also will be used for site preparation. Save America's Treasures is a public-private partnership ([www.saveamericastreasures.org](http://www.saveamericastreasures.org)) established in 1998, which has certified more than one thousand eligible projects nationally. Only a few receive the actual grants; the palace is the sixth North Carolina historical resource to receive a gift since 1999.

Palace officials estimate that visitation will greatly increase after the center is opened.

(Vina Farmer)

## Aycock Birthplace May Acquire Historic Church Building

Aycock Birthplace staff are investigating acquisition of another historic structure—Memorial Primitive Baptist Church. The white frame church was built about 1875 about five miles northwest of the site. Memorial Primitive Baptist Church was established in 1831 with 18 members in an area where the denomination was not uncommon. The current church was built around 1875 on an acre of land donated by Jesse Aycock, Charles B. Aycock's great-grandfather. Services were conducted there until June 2004.



The structure is the most intact of the Primitive Baptist meetinghouses surviving in the area. It has two double-door entrances (one for women and one for men), as well as side entrances and a rear door where African American members entered. Inside, a pew rail separates women and men's seating. African Ameri-

cans sat on benches behind the pulpit. The only modern additions to the structure have been electric lighting and gas heaters.

Congregational membership gradually declined, dwindling down to three members in recent years. The senior member passed away in July 2004. It was her wish that the church building be given to Aycock Birthplace if religious services were no longer held there.

Surviving members approached the site staff about this. We are interested in the structure because of the Aycock family's Primitive Baptist roots.

Church records have been loaned to Aycock Birthplace for research purposes. Ansley Wegner, research historian at the Office of Archives and History, is reviewing the documents and preparing a report.



(Leigh Strickland)

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## Civil War 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events Are Plentiful This Year

The 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Civil War is almost here, and many special events at historic sites (see the list in the January *InSites* or the division's website) are just around the corner. If you haven't made plans to go to some of these events, get out your calendar. Since many sites (both state-run and other places) are celebrating this milestone anniversary year with special programs, including *three* battle reenactments, there should be something for everyone.

Heritage tourism, especially Civil War tourism, is kicking into high gear all over North Carolina. The much talked about and anticipated Civil War Trails program is coming on line with the first round of approximately eighty markers to be installed by March. Many of these markers have already been put in place at locations such as Plymouth, New Bern, Kinston, and Morehead City, just to name a few. Once complete, this project will draw even more Civil War enthusiasts to North Carolina.

(Andrew Duppstadt)

## Transportation Museum (NCTM) Hosts Outboard Motor Show

In January outboard motor enthusiasts swapped and displayed motors and other antique boating equipment at the Carolina Chapter, Antique Outboard Motor Club show, held for the first time at the NCTM.

The Saturday show, which ran all day, was free to the public. Participants brought motors, boats, and boat memorabilia to the museum for display.

Owners had the opportunity to swap antique outboard equipment, gather new



information, and acquire leads to pieces and spare parts for their own outboard motor collections. Displays of motors and antique boats were set up on-site for enjoyment by members and the public. Judging of outboard motors, some as old as a two-horsepower 1917 Evinrude model, resulted in awards in five categories.

The Antique Outboard Motor Club was established for those with an interest in collecting such motors. Members have exclusive access to club resources, including rare instruction books and owners'

manuals. Special interest groups allow members to learn more about specific aspects of antique outboarding. Group categories include different engine makes, history, and racing. Members meet other enthusiasts who enjoy restoring and running antique outboards.

Begun by 5 members in 1965, the Antique Outboard Motor Club today boasts about 3,000 members in 10 countries, with 38 local chapters in the United States.

(Jennifer Garifo)

## Support Group Funds New Orientation Films at Bennett Place

The Bennett Place Support Fund has voted to fund two new orientation films.

The current audiovisual program is extremely dated. While the content of the program is solid, images are old and need replacing. The new movie will follow the same guidelines as the current program but focus more on the Civil War in North Carolina and the surrender.

The support group also will fund a new film geared toward elementary-grade children. The majority of school groups at the site are third-to-fifth-graders, and the current program does not relate well to that age. The proposed show will focus on a child's experience of daily life on a yeoman farmstead during the Civil War.

Both of these programs will be produced digitally by Ernest Dollar, former Bennett Place employee and former executive director of the Orange County Historical Museum. With a degree in art and history from UNCG and years of loyalty to our site, Ernie Dollar is passionate about Orange County history and a talented film maker. The staff is excited about prospects to have these new programs to show to visitors!

(Mia Graham and Davis Waters)

## Fort Anderson Reenactment Will Recall Surrender of Fort

Fort Anderson's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary event occurs February 19-20. It will be the first battle reenactment the site has ever hosted; please plan to come.

Constructed on the west side of the Cape Fear, over the abandoned town of Brunswick, Fort Anderson protected Wilmington and its port, upon which the Confederacy depended for supplies. Originally named Fort St. Philip for the ruins of St. Philips Anglican Church, it was renamed to honor Gen. George Burgwyn Anderson, who died in 1862 from wounds suffered at Antietam.

The completed fort had two large five-gun batteries and a smaller line of emplacements that employed the natural topography of the area. The two batteries, Battery A and Battery B, were parallel and perpendicular to the Cape Fear River, with earthworks about 20 to 25 feet high. These batteries were armed with one Whitworth, three rifled 32-pounders, and six smoothbore 32-pounders.

For most of the war the garrison saw no action, and duty was boring and routine. However, after the fall of nearby Fort Fisher in January 1865, Fort Anderson provided a few interesting footnotes in the history of the Civil War.

Prior to the main attack on Fort Anderson of February 18, Union Navy Lt. William Cushing had an idea. The Union monitor *Montauk* had been shelling Fort Anderson for days without sustaining damage from return fire. Believing that the sight of another monitor would cause the Confederates to detonate their torpedoes in the river, Cushing sent a fake monitor drifting toward the fort. A few shots were fired, but there was little response; the defenders were aware of the scheme. Cushing, who had a high opinion of himself, later boasted that the ruse scared the Confederates into abandoning the fort.

The real cause of Fort Anderson's evacuation, however, was the approaching Union army. As the Federal navy shelled Fort Anderson, infantry moved to just outside the fort at Orton Pond. Realizing the danger to the south and west, Gen. Johnson Hagood, commander of the fort, ordered artillery to fire into the Federals beneath the fort, with great precision quickly killing and injuring many Union soldiers. Attempting to inspire their comrades, the 140<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry regimental band started continuously playing patriotic tunes. Confederates within the fort also heard the music. Desiring not to be outdone and to encourage Confederate troops, the Eutaw Band of the 25<sup>th</sup> South Carolina began playing Southern patriotic songs, in what would later be called the "Battle of the Bands."

But even with the best the band could play, the Confederates knew they could not endure. In the early morning hours of Feb. 19 they quietly evacuated. Union troops attacking at first light were not overly surprised to find the fort abandoned—they had heard noises throughout the night. Once in the fort, they were soon forced to take cover from hostile fire. Quickly Union soldiers dashed to the river and began blowing bugles and waving white cloth to catch the attention of the Union fleet. And so, in one of the last battles of the Civil War, the Union surrendered to itself.

(Jim Bartley and Brenda Marshburn)



## Festival Park's *Silver Chalice* in Inaugural Parade



Gov. Michael E. Easley's inaugural parade, A Salute to One North Carolina, on Saturday, January 15, featured marching bands and performers from across the state.

The *Silver Chalice*, the *Elizabeth II*'s boat, and members of Festival Park's interpretive staff took part in the parade as was the case in 2001.

A sixteenth-century vessel, like the *Elizabeth II*, carried a ship's boat for transporting passengers and cargo to and from land. This was essential since the large ships could not navigate shallow coastal waters. The *Silver Chalice*, built of white cedar over oak, is 24 feet long with a 6-foot beam and displaces 2,000 pounds. She can carry 15 passengers and requires a crew of 5 to 7 people for rowing.

(Tanya Young)

## Volunteer Incentives Work at House in the Horseshoe

With the end of state funds for part-time employees, it is critical to find ways to entice people to volunteer. The House in the Horseshoe is 10 miles from the nearest real town and 25 miles from Pinehurst and Southern Pines, rich sources of people with time to donate. High gas prices, distance, and the tedium of repetitive tours make it hard to keep good workers. Our support group, the House in the Horseshoe Preservation Committee, Inc. (HHPCI), has come up with a promising solution.

Gift shop and donation revenues at the House in the Horseshoe are not sufficient to cover the cost of part-time salaries and leave enough for other projects and needs. The solution the HHPCI found was to give thank-you gifts of gas debit cards.

Our most loyal volunteers at the site have been high school students, and they ALWAYS are in search of gas money. Their help allowed us to stay open regular hours last summer and into the fall. Volunteers who help with daily work of tours and maintenance receive the cards; those who come to assist with programs are thanked in other ways. The staff at the House in the Horseshoe wants to thank our support group for its generosity, enthusiastic support, and ingenuity.

(Elizabeth Faison)

## Roanoke Island Festival Park Reopens in February

After a winter break, Festival Park will reopen in February.

On February 6 the East Carolina Music Society will offer a musical presentation in the film theatre at 4 p.m.

A Civil War Living History Weekend will take place on February 19-20. This event recalls the anniversary of the Battle of Roanoke Island. Activities include reenactors depicting soldiers and sailors, living history and artillery demonstrations, children's activities, lectures, book signings, blacksmithing, quilting, rope making, leatherworking, and woodworking. A five-dollar donation is suggested per family.

(Tanya Young)

## Digital Imaging Component Added to Re: Discovery

The Collections Branch staff is very excited to be adding images to our Re: Discovery collections database. Elizabeth Sumner is currently scanning existing artifact images and adding them to the database. All new acquisitions are being digitally photographed, and eventually every item in the database will have at least one photo.

At this time the images are not available through the internet access to Re: Discovery. Sam Glaize is working with us to set that up, and we hope to have that available in the near future. Check out the form below.

(Clare Arthur and Elizabeth Sumner)

Registration 1		Registration 2		Accession No.: HSALM.1971.1.1	
Accession No.: HSALM.1971.1.1		Comp Parts:	Accession:	Status: EXHIBIT	Record Status: Complete
Previous #&: 1990.153.209	# Pieces: 1.00	Count: 1.00			
Category: DISTRIBUTION & TRANSPORTATION ARTIFACTS					
Class(COM): CONTAINER					
Obj Name(COM): BOX					
Title&:					
Association: UNKNOWN/UNKNOWN					
Description&: NAILED CONSTRUCTION; NAIL HEADS OF VARIOUS SIZES; FRONT PAINTED WHITE W/ "1825" IN BLACK NUMBERS; HINGED LID; SIMPLE CLASP; CIRCULAR PATTERN W/ FLOWER STAMPED ON LID; VARIOUS CIRCLES ON SIDE.					
Condition: 7	Excellent	Set Dimens:			
Dim-Metric: [H]13.3 [W]23.8 [D]14.8 [Dia] [L] [Remarks]	<input type="checkbox"/> Convert				
Dim-Eng: [H]0'5" [W]0'9" [D]0'6"					
Date Made: 1820-1830					
Material: POPLAR -IRON -STEEL					
SignyMarks:					
Supplemental: APPR/LOCATN/				<input type="button" value="OK"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/> <input type="button" value="Save"/>	

## Transportation Museum (NCTM) Receives Grant for Locomotive Repairs

The Cannon Foundation has awarded the NCTM a \$50,000 grant for major repairs to 2-8-0 steam locomotive No. 604. A grand total of \$350,000 is needed for all required repairs, and \$150,000 is available now.

No. 604 was built in 1926 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works, premier builder of steam locomotives. Originally intended for Mexico's railways, the locomotive spent most of its career hauling coal on West Virginia's Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad as No. 4. After brief ownership by several tourist railroads, the locomotive was purchased by the NCTM Foundation in 1978. In the mid 1980s retired Southern Railway craftsmen restored No. 604 at the museum in Spencer. Since then the locomotive often has been a familiar sight pulling the museum's passenger train.

(Alane Mills)

## Nature Trail Expanded at Bennett Place

Boy Scouts have improved the nature trail at the Bennett Place woods. Over the past summer, Drew Johnson and a team of Eagle Scouts renovated the existing nature trail and doubled its length by making several loops in the wooded area out to the railroad tracks. Drew took on the task for his Eagle Scout service project.

The old nature trail also had been created by a local scout troop and ran straight along the edge of the woods from the picnic area near the visitor center to the wood shed at the property's far end. Drew renovated the trail by clearing it of debris, grading the area, filling in low spots, and eliminating hazardous roots.

Next Drew planned loops from the trail back through the woods to the railroad tracks, doubling the size of the trail. When the new design was done, he leveled the route, filling in potholes and created barriers of fallen trees to clearly mark the sides.

After completing the trail, Drew built two wooden benches at its far end, giving visitors a spot to rest while looking at the site's historic buildings from a distance. His final task was creating a sign marking the end of the trail. He placed the sign near the benches and did a wonderful job matching an existing trail marker.

The trails now offer an interesting stroll through the woods on the property. Drew did a wonderful job and worked nearly every weekend throughout the summer to complete the project! We thank him for his dedication and hard work.

(Mia Graham)

## Artrain USA Returns to N.C. Transportation Museum

If they can't go to the art, bring the art to them. That's the philosophy of Artrain USA, a nonprofit organization that carries a trainload of art across the nation.

An art museum in vintage rail cars that travels by rail, Artrain USA will pull into the NCTM March 5-6 with its exhibition, *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture*. The exhibit explores the way Native American artists are influenced by popular culture and offers an opportunity to consider different insights into contemporary society.

The exhibit, open from 10 to 5, will be supplemented with programming on a Native American theme, including demonstrating artists, storytelling by Freeman Owle of the Cherokee Nation, a take-home art project for children, and an arts and crafts fair. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 5 to 12.

Artrain USA, which last visited Spencer in 1996 for the centennial of Spencer Shops, will also offer free programs for school groups March 4 and 7.

But the event won't completely veer away from the transportation focus of the museum—visitors can learn about how some Native Americans got from place to place by watching a dugout canoe demonstration. Without iron tools, Native Americans living near waterways developed other methods to build boats. Dugout canoes were created using small, controlled fires to hollow out long, thick logs.

Artrain USA's visit will coincide with the seasonal return of the museum's on-site train ride. Rail rides resume every weekend in March and daily in April.

Since 1971, Artrain USA has presented exhibits and art education programs in 44 states to more than 2.7 million visitors during 730 stops.

For more on Artrain USA, visit [www.ArtrainUSA.org](http://www.ArtrainUSA.org).

(Misty Ebel)



## Fort Anderson Seeks Help to Buy Historic Flag

A wonderful opportunity has presented itself for Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson. A reputable antiques dealer currently owns the garrison flag that flew the fort. The banner is in excellent condition and has been authenticated and inspected by conservators. Authorities on Civil War-era flags and textiles assure us that the \$40,000 asking price is fair and reasonable. Any amount you could donate to this effort would be greatly appreciated. Donations made to the Friends of Brunswick Town, Inc. are tax-deductible.

The following paragraph comes from Chris Fonvielle Jr.'s book, *Fort Anderson: Battle for Wilmington* (1999).

Upon entering Fort Anderson, the Federals also took possession of a garrison flag, 'which was rolled up and evidently had fallen off a wagon during the hasty withdrawal.' A soldier of Company A, 140<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry, found the standard lying crumpled on the ground, and turned it over to the regiment's commander, Col. Thomas J. Brady. Four weeks later, on March 17, Colonel Brady presented Anderson's banner to Governor Oliver P. Morton of Indiana at a ceremony in front of the National Hotel in Washington. To show his appreciation for the governor's loyal support of his Republican administration, President Lincoln also appeared at the gathering, rather than attend a stage performance at the Campbell Hospital near the Soldier's Home as he had planned. Lincoln took time to review the 140<sup>th</sup> Indiana and make a few remarks to the excited crowd of people who had come for the presentation of the captured flag of Fort Anderson. But as one Union soldier later scoffed: "it was not captured, it was found." Ironically, Lincoln's attendance at the flag ceremony may have ultimately cost him his life. March 17 was the same day that John Wilkes Booth had planned to kidnap the president as he made his way to the Campbell Hospital. With his abduction scheme foiled by Lincoln's change of schedule, the deranged Booth altered his plan for Lincoln's fate.

Please help us bring this flag back to Fort Anderson for the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of Fort Anderson in February by making a donation today. For more information, contact Brunswick Town at 910-371-6613. Donations can be made to: Friends of Brunswick Town, Inc., 8884 St. Philips Road SE, Winnabow, NC 28479.

(Jim Bartley and Brenda Marshburn)